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OWNER OF	FPROPERTY			`
NAME				
	Mr. and Mrs. Boo	ker T. Youngel		
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2. Missouri State Historical Survey 1977 Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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CONDITION

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__MOVED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Walt Disney Residence and Garage, 3028 Bellefontaine Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, is a one and one-half story rectangular-plan, wood frame cottage. Erected in 1905, the house is designed in the "Builder's Vernacular" style. The main facade of the residence faces east onto Bellefontaine Avenue. To the west of the residence is a single story, rectangular-shaped concrete cinder block garage, erected in 1916-1917.2

WALT DISNEY RESIDENCE

Dimensions—

The residence measures 54 feet east-west and 22 feet north-south. The house contains approximately 3,564 square feet of living space.

Construction materials and colors

The residence is of wood frame construction atop rubble limestone foundations. Exterior facades are painted white. Asbestos clapboard siding of reddish-brown color covers the east facade and north and south facade attic gables.

EXTERIORS

Openings

The main or east facade contains a single-leaf screened door and two irregularly spaced one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows of differing widths. The east attic gable contains a small triple-light unit, the center light dominating in size. Prieman and the contract of th

Fenestration on the north facade contains four rectangular one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows and one square one-over-one light, double-hung sash window. To the east of this window is one narrow single-light window. The westernmost window on this facade is barred. The north attic gable contains a single one-over-one light, double-hung sash window.

The rear or west facade contains a single one-over-one light, double-hung sash window, barred; one single-leaf door, and one small rectangular single-light window.

The south facade contains six window openings. From left to right are two single, one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows spaced at unequal intervals; a projected bay window arrangement featuring a central, one-over-one light, doublehung sash window flanked by very narrow one-over-one light windows; and a single, one-over-one light, double-hung sash window. The south facade attic gable holds a non-original aluminum single-leaf screen door providing an "attic entrance."

Roofs

Multiple roofs of medium pitch with broad gable ends are surfaced with asphalt

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composition shingles and cover the house proper. A medium-pitched hip roof covers the east facade porch. A truncated hip roof covers the section of the house placed between the house proper and the west addition. A flat, tar-papered roof covers the rear portion, an addition to the residence.

Chimneys

There are two engaged red brick chimneys, one rising from the central portion of the roof, the second rising near the west facade just east of the rear addition.

Porches

The residence has three porches. The east facade front porch runs the width of the residence and provides a main entrance to the residence. The non-original ornamental wrought iron balustrade and end posts support a hipped roof. The porch floor is cemented.

The non-original second floor entrance on the south facade attic gable opens onto a wooden, single-run staircase and suspended entrance porch. The staircase faces east.

The west or rear facade porch consists only of a cement three step staircase directly below the rear entrance. The area is protected by a flat, tar-papered roof hinged to the exterior of the facade just below the roof line and is approximately five feet in length.

INTERIORS

Access into interiors of the residence was unavailable.

ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the Walt Disney Residence include:

1915:

- 1. Construction of rear addition with flat tar-papered roof³ 1976:
- 1. Front porch floor cemented⁴

Unknown dates:

- 1. Front porch wooden balustrades and columns removed, replaced by wrought iron balustrades and posts.
- 2. Addition of south facade attic gable, single-leaf aluminum door.
- 3. Addition of wooden platform porch and single-run stairway, south facade.
- 4. Addition of asbestos clapboard, east facade, and north and south attic gables.

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CONDITION

The Walt Disney Residence is presently in good condition and receives regular maintenance.

WALT DISNEY GARAGE

The garage measures 30 feet north-south and 19 feet east-west at its widest points. The garage contains approximately 570 square feet.

Construction materials and colors

The exterior walls of the garage are principly constructed of concrete cinder blocks, partially painted white. Metal sheeting surfaces gable-ends. Brick pattern asphalt composition sheeting surfaces east and some north facade sections.

Openings

The main or east facade of the garage contains two wooden doors and one singlelight rectangular window.

The north facade has no openings.

The west facade contains a single non-original hinged vehicular-size garage door with a lateral triple-light window configuration. To the right of this is one boarded rectangular window opening.

The south facade contains one boarded window opening. Directly above this is what appears to be a window opening covered with asphalt composition.

Roofs

A non-original, tar-papered, low pitched gable roof covers the garage.

Chimneys

A single iron stovepipe flue projects from the north facade and rises above the roof line.

INTERIORS

Access into the interior of the garage was unavailable.

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ALTERATIONS

Alterations to the Walt Disney Garage include:

1958:

1. Replacement of shed roof with low-pitched gable roof.

2. Addition of vehicular-size hinged garage door and projection along the west facade.⁵

Unknown dates:

1. Replacement of original wood frame walls with concrete cinder blocks.

CONDITION

The Walt Disney Garage is presently in fair condition.

SITE

The Walt Disney Residence and Garage are located in the mid-eastern residential area of Kansas City, Missouri. Facing east onto Bellefontaine Avenue, the residence and garage occupy the second lot north of Thirty-First Street and Bellefontain Avenue. To the north is a residence, to the west lies an alleyway, and to the south is a corner residence. A chain link fence outlines the property. Walk-ways include the concrete sidewalks, perpendicular to the residence along the curbs parallel to Bellefontaine Street and up to the primary entrance of the residence. A narrow concrete walkway to the immediate south runs the length of the residence and terminates at the rear entrance. Landscaping features a front lawn and narrow strip of hedging enclosing the property.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Water Service Permit, 5th Floor, City Hall, 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
- Building Permit No. 61601, Building Permit Office, 18th Floor, City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
- 3. Building Permit No. 58522, Building Permit Office, 18th Floor, City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
- 4. Personal interview with Mrs. Booker T. Youngel, present owner and occupant of residence, 3028 Bellefontaine Avenue, Kansas City, MO., 64128, April 28, 1977.
- 5. Building Permit No. 57051, Building Permit Office, 18th Floor, City Hall 414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.

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SPECIFIC DATES

1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Walt Disney Residence and Garage in Kansas City, Missouri is significant for its association as the adolescent home and studio of internationally renowned motion picture producer and film animator Walt Disney, during his residence in Kansas City from ca. 1914-1917, 1919-1921. The Disney residence, erected in 1905 and designed in the "Builder's Vernacular" style, was acquired by Walt Disney's parents, Elias and Flora Disney, in ca. 1914.2 It served as home for various members of the Disney family until November, 1921.3

The garage, erected in 1917 by Elias Disney, served as a makeshift studio for Walt Disney from 1919-1921. Within this studio, Disney "experimented with incandescent lights called 'inkies' until he achieved the best exposures for his drawings," and it is strongly believed that it was here Disney was inspired to create one of the greatest characters in film animation, Mickey Mouse. These early cartoon efforts by Disney would contribute to the refinement in subject matter and technological advances of his later award-winning films and animations.

HISTORICAL DATA

Walter Elias Disney was born on Sunday, December 5, 1901, in northwestern Chicago, Illinois. In April of 1906, the Disney family moved to Marceline, Missouri. The Disney family left Marceline for Kansas City during the spring of 1910.6 In Kansas City, the Disneys resided at 2706 East 31st Street. Walt attended Benton School (presently the D. A. Holmes School), southwest corner, 30th and Benton Boulevard. His earliest efforts in art work began with duplicating political cartoons whereby he developed an ease for caricature. Although his interest in art was never encouraged by his parents, he was allowed to attend childrens' Saturday art classes at the Fine Arts Institute of Kansas City, Missouri (presently the Kansas City Art Institute), then housed in the offices of the Y.W.C.A. Building, 1018-1024 McGee Street.

In about 1914, the Disney family moved to 3028 Beltefontaine Avenue. In 1917 when an interest in the 0-Zell Jelly Factory in Chicago became available, Disney's parents and sister, Ruth, embarked on this new enterprise. Disney graduated from Benton School on June 8, 1917, and remained in Kansas City for the summer working as a candy and news butcher for the Van Noyes Interstate News Company. That fall, Walt Disney joined his parents in Chicago to attend McKinley High School. Three nights a week, he studied anatomy, pen technique, and cartooning at the Chicago Institute of Art.8

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When the United States entered World War I, Disney, at sixteen years of age, left school to join the American Red Cross. He was sent overseas and was stationed in France for a year. 9

After the war, Disney returned to Kansas City in the fall of 1919 in search of employment. Disney was hired as an apprentice at the Pesmen-Rubin Commercial Art Studio in the Gray Advertising Building, 1331 Oak Street. It was a short-term job experience, however, as he began the latter part of October thru December, 1919, and was terminated that December. A co-worker, Ubbe Iwerks, was terminated at the same time. The two young men formed a partnership called Iwerks-Disney Commercial Artists. The business venture lasted only a month. On January 29, 1920, Disney answered a cartoonist ad for the Kansas City Slide Company, 1015 Central Street, a firm which projeced animated advertising films. Disney was accepted for the position by A. Vern Cauger, head of the company. After several months, Disney was able to convince the firm to hire his friend, Ub Iwerks. During this interim, the firm's name and address was changed to the Kansas City Film Ad Company, 2449 Charlotte Street. It was during this time that Disney gained experience in animated cartooning, converting the garage behind his 3028 Bellefontaine Avenue residence into a studio. Meanwhile, the Disney family's investment in the jelly factory in Chicago failed and they claimed bankruptcy. The Disney family returned to Kansas City. Later in November, 1922, they moved to Portland, Oregon. Walt Disney remained in Kansas City. 10

Disney left his position with Kansas City Film Ad Company and on May 23, 1922, he incorporated Laugh-O-Grams Films. He was joined by Ub Iwerks and five other film animators. In the early months of incorporation, Laugh-O-Grams was commissioned by a non-theatrical distribution company, Pictoral Clubs, to produce several cartoons within their offices on the second floor of the McConahay Building. Laugh-O-Grams produced for Pictorial Clubs: The Four Musicians of Bremen (Bremen Town Musicians), Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Puss and Boots, and Cinderella!

By mid-year of 1922, Laugh-O-Grams were contracted by the Jenkins Music Company to make a film illustrating the song, "Martha." In December, 1922, Disney created the film, Tommy Tucker's Tooth, for dentist Thomas B. McCrum, to promote dental health. The last major enterprise by Laugh-O-Grams, Inc. was Alice's Wonderland which was never completed. By July, 1923, debts were increasing and becoming difficult to pay. Disney was forced to take up lodging in the Laugh-O-Grams offices. Resigned to bankruptcy with no future prospects in Kansas City, Disney left Kansas City in July, 1923, with a one-way ticket to California and 40 dollars in cash. 12

In California, Disney and his enterprise flourished. Before his death in 1966, Disney had entertained and educated three generations of Americans. In the animated film, he developed and popularized a whole new medium of art and entertainment

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As entertainment's most successful practitioner, he pioneered feature length color cartoons, popularized nature films, and expanded into adventure, comedy, and musical films. His legendary success of his vast amusement park, Disneyland, not only set a pattern for additional park projects, but also a precedent for a new approach to "systems" architecture, laying a heavy influence on city planning and design. From organizations and governments around the world, Disney was honored and awarded for significant contributions to the art of visual communications. Disney's impact on American society, its culture and architecture, has resulted from a most successful combination of a multitude of ideas and industry on art, music, technology, and the better qualities of human nature.

Various major works and productions included:

1. Mickey Mouse (Special Academy Award Winner) and Silly Symphonies since 1928

2. Three Little Pigs, 1933 (Academy Award Winner)

3. Snow White and Seven Dwarfs, 1938 (Academy Award Winner)

4. Fantasia, 1940 (New York Film Critics Award Winner, Special Academy Award Winner)

5. Pinocchio, 1940 (Academy Award Winner)

6. Dumbo, 1941 (Academy Award Winner)

7. Bambi, 1942

8. Song of the South, 1946 (Academy Award Winner)

9. Cinderella, 1950

10. Treasure Island, 195011. Alice in Wonderland, 1951

12. Peter Pan, 1953

13. 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea, 1954 (Academy Award Winner)

14. Founder of Disneyland as base for television productions, 1954

15. Producer Disneyland television and "Mickey Mouse Club" television programs over ABC-Television, 1954

16. "Walt Disney Presents", 1958-1961

17. "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color", NBC-Television, 1961-present

18. <u>Kidnapped</u>, 1960

19. Swiss Family Robinson, 1960

20. Pollyanna, 1960 (Special Academy Award Winner)

21. Babes In Toyland, 1961

22. Mary Poppins, 1964 (Academy Award Winner). 13

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Walt Disney Residence and Garage are, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as examples of the themes of "Fine Arts and Humanities," "Society," and "Technology."

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FOOTNOTES

- 1. Bob Thomas, <u>Walt Disney</u>, An American Original, (New York: Simon and Schuster Publishing Co., 1976), pp. 38-61. Correspondence with David R. Smith, Archivist, Walt Disney Archives, Burbank, California, 16 March 1977.
- 2. Ibid.
- 3. Thomas, Walt Disney, An American Original, pp. 38-61.
- 4. Ibid., p. 59
- 5. "Films, Views, and Interviews," <u>Kansas City</u>, (Missouri) <u>Star</u>, 25 December 1966, sec. E, p. 2; "Mickey Mouse Inspiration From Mickey Mouse in K. C. Studio," <u>Kansas City Journal-Post</u>, 8 September 1935, n.pp.; "Disney, Walter Biographical Sketch, <u>Kansas City Journal</u>, 14 June 1941, n.pp.
- 6. Thomas, Walt Disney, An American Original, pp. 24-32.
- 7. Ibid., pp. 33-39; 1915 Kansas City, Missouri City Directory, (Kansas City, Missouri: Gate City Directory Company, 1915), p. 737.
- 8. Thomas, Walt Disney, An American Original, pp. 33-45.
- 9. Ibid., pp. 46-52.
- 10. Ibid., pp. 53-61.
- 11. Ibid., p. 62.
- 12. Ibid., pp. 63-66
- Leonard Multin, <u>The Disney Films</u> (New York, N.Y.: Crown Publishing Inc., c. 1973), n.pp.; <u>Marquis-Who's Who Inc.</u> (Chicago Marquis Publications, 1964-1965), p. 523.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1. Building Permit No. 57051, dated 3 October 1958, Building Permit Office, 18th floor, City Hall, 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
- 2. Building Permit No. 58533, dated 26 May 1915, Building Permit Office, 18th floor, City Hall 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

- 3. Building Permit No. 61601, dated 18 December 1916, Building Permit Office, 18th floor, City Hall, 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
- 4. "Disney, Walter Biographical Sketch." <u>Kansas City</u> (Missouri) <u>Journal</u>, 14 June 1941, n.pp.
- 5. "Films, Views, and Interviews," <u>Kansas City</u> (Missouri) <u>Star</u>, 25 December 1966, p. 2E.
- 6. Maltin, Leonard. The Disney Films. New York, N.Y.: Crown Publishing Company, n.pp.
- 7. "Mickey Mouse Inspiration From Mickey Mouse in Kansas City Studio." <u>Kansas City</u> (Missouri) <u>Journal-Post</u>, 8 September 1935. n.pp.
- 8. Smith, Mr. David R., Archivist, Walt Disney Archives, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, California. Correspondence, 16 March 1977.
- 9. Thomas, Bob. <u>Walt Disney</u>, An American Original. New York: Simon and Schuster Publishing Company, 1976. pp. 38-61.
- 10. Water Service Permit. 5th floor, City Hall, 414 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.
- 11. Who's Who in America. Vol. 33. Chicago, Illinois: Marquis-Who's Who Inc. 1964-1965, p. 523.
- 12. Youngel, Mrs. Booker T., 3028 Bellefontaine Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, 64128. Interview, 28 April 1977.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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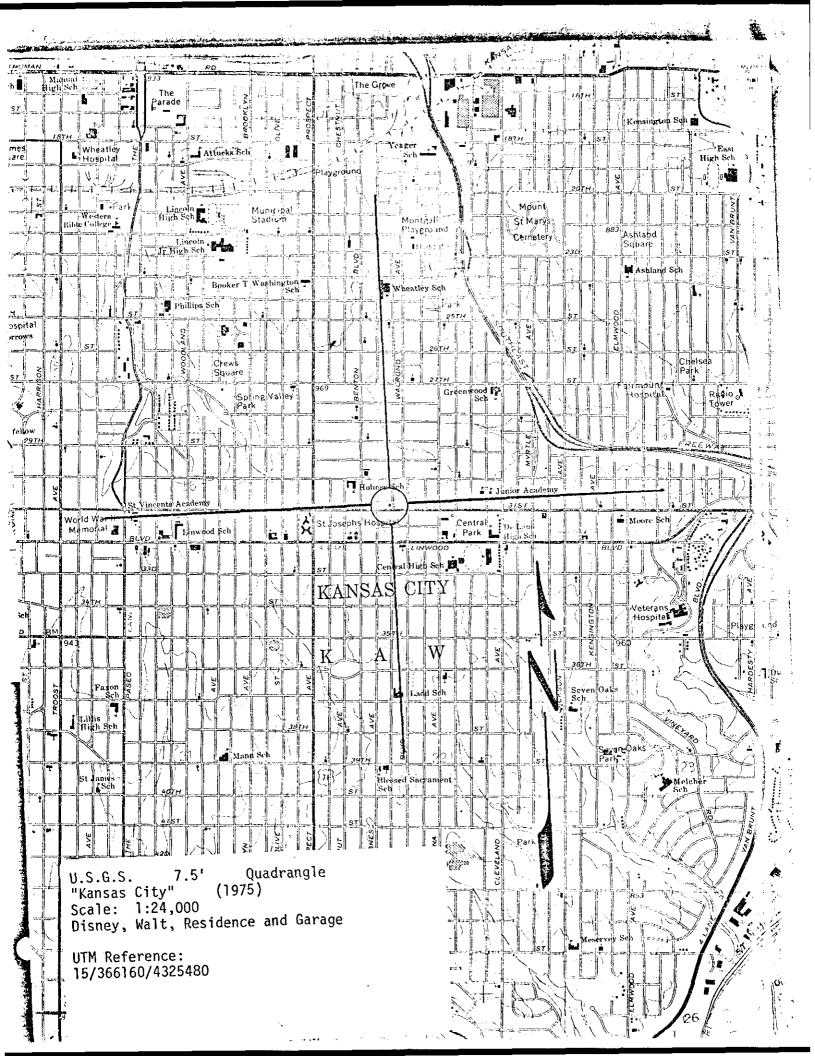
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DATE ENTERED

 Edward J. Miszczuk, Chief Research Historian Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri City Hall, 26th Floor - E., 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106

(816) 274-2555



DISNEY, WALT, HOUSE AND GARAGE

COUNTY:

LOCATION:

OWNER:

ADDRESS:

Jackson

3028 Bellefontaine Avenue Kansas City

Mr. and Mrs. Booker T. Youngel 3028 Bellefontaine Avenue

Kansas City, Mo.

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

July 15, 1977

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

September 23, 1977

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

September 29, 1977

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED: (AND PRESENTOR)

May 22, 1978

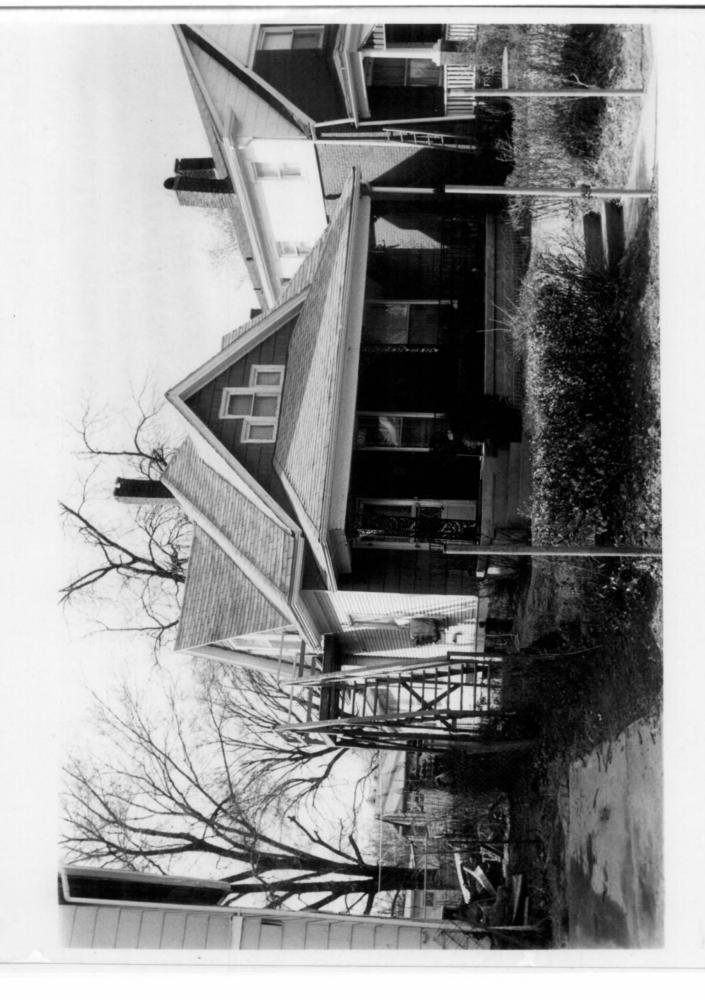
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Kansas City from ca. 1914-1917, 1919-1921. The Disney residence, erected in 1905 and designed in the "Builder's Vernacular" style, was acquired by Walt Dis-ney's parents, Elias and Flora Disney, in ca. 1914. It served as home for various The Walt Disney Residence and Garage in Kansas City, Missouri is significant for its association as the adolescent home and studio of internationally renowned motion picture producer and film animator Walt Disney, during his residence in members of the Disney family until November, 1921. Disney, Walt, Residence and Garage Kansas Otto, Jackson Country Victoria C. Karel - March 1977 Landmarks Commission

Northeast corner of main residence, view facade on the left and north facade on the right. looking west-southwest, showing east



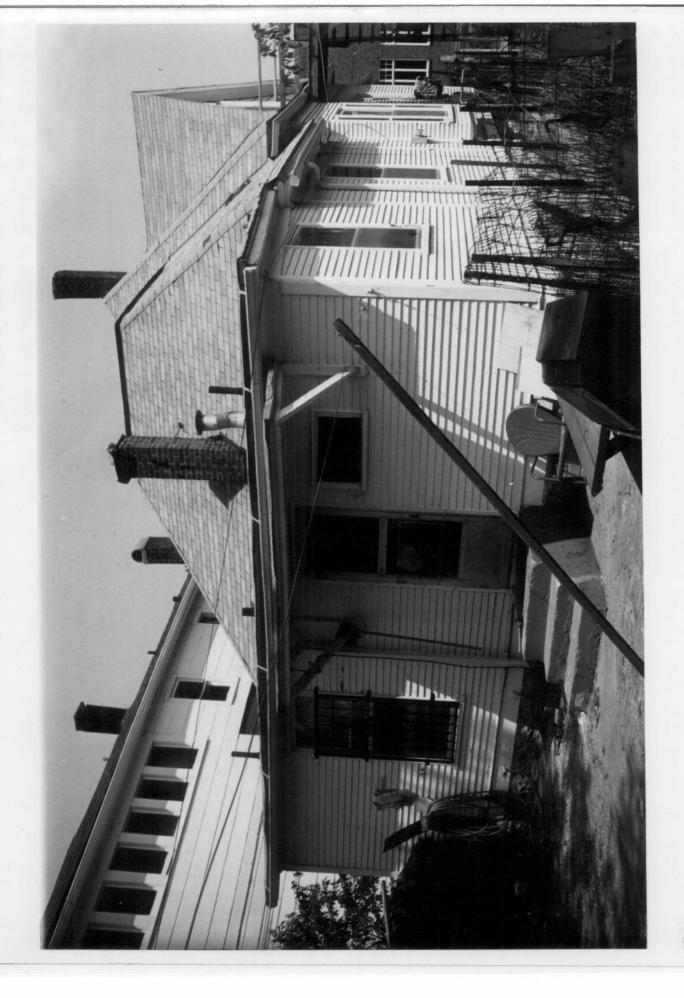
on the Meff and the east facade on the right, Looking West-northwest, showing south facade Southeast coence of main residence ; wend Kawsas Coto, Jackson Counting Victoria C. Ravel - March 1977 Disney, Malt, Residence *No Garade Laudmanks Commission



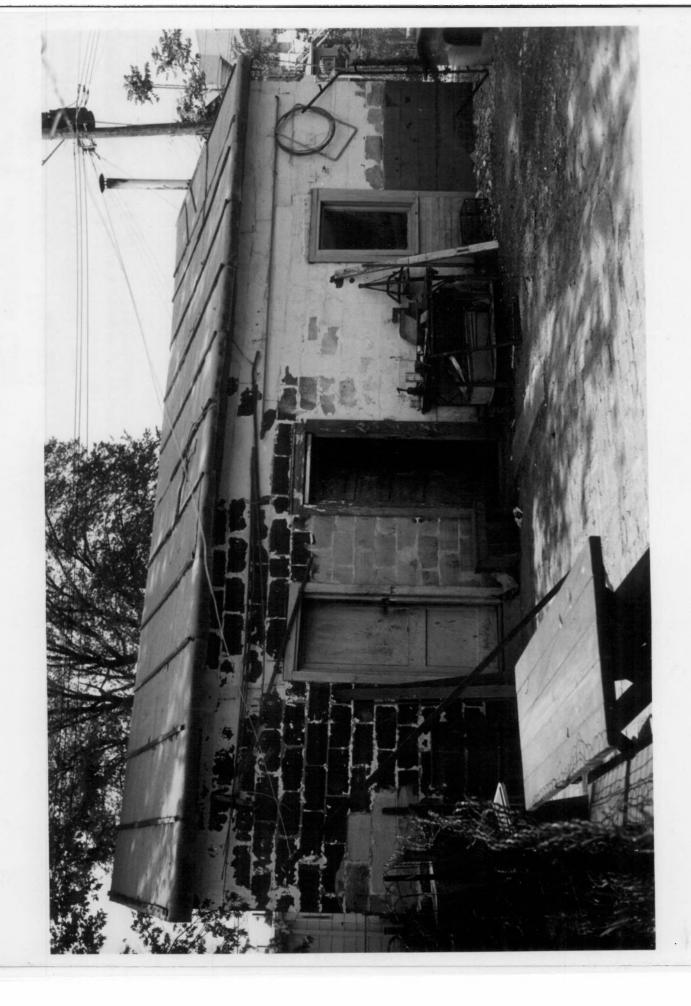
West facade of main residence. View booking east. Disney, Walt, Residence to Garage.
Kansas Coty, Jackson County
Victoria C. Kayel - March 1977
Lawdmouths Commission



Southwest corner of main residence; view west facade on the lift and the South facade on the lift and the South facade on the Makt. Kawabas City, Jackson County Victoria C. Karel - March 1977 Disney, Walt, Residence And Glarade and marks commission



East facade of gazage, view lookung w Disney, Watt, Residence *** Garage Kansas Octy Jackson Octo Victoria C Karel - March, 197 Jandmarks Commission



Disney, Walt, Residence Ino Garage Victoria C. Karel - March 1977 Konsbs City, Jackson Country Landmarks Commission

east-southeast, showing the north facially Northwest corner of galade, Mew Josking on the left and west facable on the right. The Disney Residence on background.

